

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, lines 18-27, please change the paragraph to read:

It has heretofore been necessary in order to obtain a three-dimensional image of a specimen with an LSM, for example, to capture optical images of successive planes inside the specimen by mechanically moving either the specimen or the objective along the direction of the optical axis. With this method, however, it is difficult to realize positional control with high accuracy and high reproducibility because the method needs a mechanical drive. In a case where the specimen is moved, high-speed scanning cannot be effected when the size of the specimen is large ~~in size~~.

Page 3, line 28, through page 4, line 5, please change the paragraph to read:

Further, the wavefront converting element needs to be placed in conjugate relation to the position of a laser scanning member and also to the position of the objective pupil. Accordingly, at least two pupil relay optical systems are required. Therefore, the size of the apparatus becomes large ~~in size~~ and it becomes unfavorably complicated ~~unfavorably~~.

Page 4, lines 6-15, please change the paragraph to read:

Further, in the above-described prior art, a reflection type wavefront converting element is incorporated in the illuminating optical path ~~or/and~~ and/or the light-detecting optical path. Therefore, the prior art uses beam splitters as shown in FIGS. 27 and 28. Accordingly, when a non-polarized laser is used as a light source, together with a non-polarization type beam splitter, the amount of light is reduced to 1/4 every time the laser beam travels via the wavefront converting element.